

Reduce Outdoor Watering

On the average, each person uses approximately 80 gallons of water per day inside their home with an equivalent amount of water used each day to maintain outdoor landscaping. Landscaped areas generally place the highest demand on water resources; much of this water is needlessly wasted due to runoff and evaporation.

The amount of water required for maintaining landscaping depends on the types and locations of the plants (i.e., lawn, flowers, trees and shrubs). The length of time spent watering your landscaped areas should reflect your plant's needs.



Over watering your landscaped areas may result in excess irrigation water and pollutants being conveyed into the storm drain system. The excess irrigation water that flows off your property and over curbs and into gutters can pick up pollutants including sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, and bacteria. When fertilizers and pesticides wash into our local waterways they can poison fish and contaminate the runoff. Organics, such as grass clippings rich in nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen decomposing leaves, can cause algal blooms and bacteria growth which can degrade water quality.

Urban runoff flows enter Forrester Creek and can impact other tributary drainages including the San Diego River and ultimately the beach. Taking a few simple steps as identified below, we can greatly reduce our impact on Forester Creek and help save money.

Simple Water Saving Tips

- 💧 Water your lawn **2-days per week** and **10-minutes per day**.
Drip, micro and rotary nozzle sprinklers are exempt from the per day time limit.
<http://www.hwd.com/>
- 💧 Water during late-night to early morning hours (6pm-10am).
- 💧 Do not water lawn for 48-hours after measurable rainfall.
- 💧 Adjust watering times and schedules to ensure that the appropriate amount of water is being utilized on landscaped areas.
- 💧 Avoid watering lawn on windy days.
- 💧 Fertilize/reseed your lawn in the mid-late spring.
- 💧 Remove weeds from your lawn; they rob your lawn of water.
- 💧 Maintain sprinkler heads and nozzles in good working condition.
- 💧 Set up your sprinklers so they do not spray the hardscape surface (sidewalk or driveway).





Mix mulch into the soil matrix to help retain moisture and help reduce the need for frequent watering.



Use an automatic timer to program each water zone for only the amount of water needed.

For more information, contact the your local water supply company Helix Water District at (619) 466-0585; Padre Dam Municipal Water District at (619) 448-3111 or Storm Water Protection Program at (619) 441-1653

<http://www.cityofelcajon.us/stormwater>